

PROBLEMS OF RURAL CANDIDATES AND THE COMMISSION'S VIEW ABOUT THE REMEDIES:

Regarding the problem of rural candidates and its remedial measures etc. the Commission had pointed out in its earlier reports and this year also, the position remained unchanged. During the year under report, the Commission reiterated its earlier view regarding the poor performance of the candidates who were coming from rural areas. Generally speaking, their performance was not as good as those who were coming from urban areas in interviews/personality test.

Reason for relatively poor performance of rural candidates

The Commission is of the opinion that the reason for relatively poor performance of rural candidates in interview/personality test are as follows:-

- (i) Non availability of reference books, Library facilities, Newspapers, Journals (particularly all India Newspapers) in rural areas specially, in remote villages.
- (ii) Lack of opportunities to associate themselves with Institutions /Organizations which help in the development of art of expression of ideas/thoughts in an articulate and cogent manner. It is also observed by the Commission that information regarding advertisement does not reach to the candidates in rural areas in time even though such advertisements are published in several local dailies and also broadcast/telecast through All India Radio and Doordarshan. The Commission also noticed that sufficient number of qualified candidates are not available for reserved vacancies particularly, those requiring technical qualifications.

The Commission's suggestion

The Commission suggested that the following steps may be taken by the Government to thwart the problems of candidates coming from rural areas, especially remote villages.

- (a) Government may publish monthly News Bulletin covering information about employment opportunities, under the State as well as Central Government which may be widely circulated

through Block and Panchayat Agencies. The posts advertised by the T.P.S.C., U.P.S.C., and Staff Selection Commission, etc. may also be published through the News Bulletin.

- (b) Coaching facilities may be provided not only at District level but also at the Panchayat level to upgrade the standard of knowledge of rural candidates. The candidates should be aware of the employment opportunities and competitive examinations held by the different Agencies. Syllabus of important Competitive Examinations and specimen questions and model answers may be published and distributed by the Government in rural areas at nominal cost.
- (c) Steps may be taken to strengthen the Panchayat Libraries. Books and periodicals related to competitive examinations may be available with these libraries.
- (d) SC/ST students, particularly, who are from remote villages may be encouraged to take up Technical/Professional Courses of education so that adequate number of such candidates become available for filling up of the reserved posts in course of time. Government Departments sponsoring candidates for technical education/training may ensure that adequate numbers of ST/SC candidates are sponsored for such courses so that there is no shortage of ST/SC candidates for appointment to Technical posts.
- (e) The Commission reiterates the problems stated above in its earlier reports. Therefore, the Government may take special endeavor to take positive steps to implement the advice suggestions of the Commission.